RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 12th December, 2001/21 Agrahayana, 1923 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the Clock, **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: सभापति महोदय, सारा सदन यह जानना चाहता है कि जार्ज फर्नान्डीज के इस्तीफे का क्या हुआ?...**(व्यवधान)**.... यह पूरा देश जानना चाहता है, सभापति महोदय !...**(व्यवधान)**...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, we want Question Hour...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Number 321...*(Interruptions)*...

Exploration of Coal in the Patkai Range of Assam

*321. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserve of explorable coal, both underground and opencast mining, in the Patkai Range of Assam;

(b) the annual quantity of coal explored by each method, total earning and the amount paid to Assam Government as royalty; and

(c) the area covered by each of the methods year-wise and the area under reclamation during the last five years, the extent of pollution and pollution control measures undertaken as well as amount utilised for reclamation, afforestation and pollution control measures, separately?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, Question Number 321 ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, a statement is laid on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*...

Statement

(a) Total coal reserves of Patkai Range which extends to Nagaland, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh is 414.94 million tonnes.

The break up of the above reserves in underground and opencast categories has not been separately assessed.

(b) The basic methods of exploration of coal deposits are geological mapping and trenching followed by drilling investigation.

Drilling for detailed exploration in the coalfields of Patkai Range during the last five years and reserves established are as under:—

Details	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
Meterage drilled	1,095	918	559	928	43
Reserves proved (Mt)	58.38	—	32.41	—	20.89

There has been no earning from the exploration jobs. Also, no royalty has been paid to Government of Assam for carrying out exploration.

(c) Area covered for exploration by drilling till date is 66 Sq. Km.

The activities like reclamation of area, pollution control, afforestation etc. are not covered under exploration programme for coal deposits.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, in the entire country, coal is extracted from underground...*(Interruptions)*.... But, Sir, in Patkai Range of Assam, coal is extracted only through opencast mining and not through underground mining which was being practised by the British...*(Interruptions)*.... The methods which are being followed ...*(Interruptions)*....

श्री रामविलास पासवान: सभापति महोदय, यह प्रश्न इससे नहीं उठता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: सभापति महोदय, सदन जानना चाहता है कि जार्ज फर्नान्डीज ने

इस्तीफा दिया कि नहीं? ...(व्यवधान)... यह शहीदों के नाम पर धोखाधड़ी है, मान्यवर।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 12 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at three minutes past eleven of the clock.

12.00 Noon

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Power Projects in the Backward Districts

*322. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of ongoing power projects in the backward districts of the country;

(b) the present status of the above power projects; and

(c) by when the above power projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The Government of India had set up a Committee in February, 1997 to identify the 100 most backward districts in the country. Based on the districts identified by this Committee, following hydro and thermal ongoing power projects are in the backward districts of India. The details of such projects alongwith present status and likely date of completion is given below:

Name of the Project	State/ District	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule		Status
			Org.	Latest	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hydro Central Sector					
Indira Sagar (NHDC)	M.P/ Khandwa	8×125	1997-2000	2004-05	Project being executed by Narmada Hydro Electric Development Corpn. A